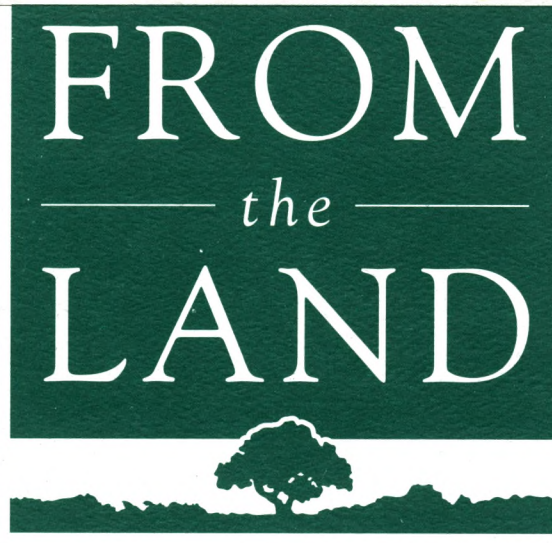




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Stratford Great Meadows Saved!

A three-decade struggle to preserve the most critical portions of the Great Meadows salt marsh in Stratford finally reached fruition this fall. In early October, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased a 335-acre addition to the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge comprising tidal marshes and key inland tracts of the marsh.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy, negotiated for more than two years with the Stratford Development Company, owners of Great Meadows, before signing a series of options covering different portions of the property in March 1993. A substantial challenge remained before those options could be executed: obtaining acquisition funds from the U.S. Congress in an increasingly difficult budget climate.

Through the extraordinary efforts of Representatives Rosa DeLauro and Christopher Shays and Senators Joseph I. Lieberman and Christopher J. Dodd, Congress allocated \$1.6 million in the 1994 budget and \$2 million in the 1995 budget for acquisition of the most critical portions of the marsh.

The Great Meadows contain the state's largest high salt marsh not degraded as wildlife habitat by mosquito ditching. The site's mix of salt, brackish and freshwater marshes, along with its barrier beach, Long Beach, attract one of the largest concentrations of state-listed threatened and endangered bird species in Connecticut. The area also hosts several state-listed plant species. Lewis Gut, the body of water that flows among the marshes, is a critical oyster seed bed and feeding area for young fish.

The Stratford Development Company, after buying more than 600 acres in and next to the marsh in 1951, spent about \$3 million over the next two decades developing portions of the area and planning commercial and industrial development of the rest of the property. The passage of

Connecticut's tidal wetlands laws in 1969 required the company to apply to the state Department of Environmental Protection for permits before initiating any further filling or dredging of the marshes.

Public hearings on the company's permit applications at various times attracted as many as 900 citizens protesting encroachment on the Great Meadows. After the DEP denied several applications, the company appealed in court, arguing that since it had owned the industrially-zoned land since 1951, DEP's permit denials constituted an unconstitutional "taking without compensation." A 1986 Connecticut Superior Court decision ordered the DEP to provide guidance to the Stratford

Development Company as to what development of the wetlands would be acceptable.

As the company and DEP negotiated over the next several years, the Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy approached the Stratford Development Company in late 1990 and began the lengthy process that culminated in this fall's purchase.

Arthur Rocque, DEP's Assistant Commissioner for Long Island Sound Programs, whose unit protected the Meadows through the regulatory process,

termed the federal government's acquisition of the property as being of "great ecological significance to the state of Connecticut." Rocque noted the "enormous opportunity for restoration and recolonization" of the parts of the Meadows that have been degraded.

"The money obtained by our Congressional delegation, along with approximately \$700,000 from the U.S. Migratory Bird Commission, will protect more than 85 percent of the property included in the original options," Connecticut Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. said. "We'll work again next year with our delegation to try to protect the remaining portions." 

— DAVID SUTHERLAND



BEHIND THE SCENES



SINCE THE NATURE CONSERVANCY does not involve itself in confrontational stances on most issues, many people have the misconception that we never work to

influence government policy. The preservation of the Great Meadows salt marsh in Stratford provides an excellent example of how we work with agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state Office of Long Island Sound Programs and legislators to preserve biological diversity.

Over four decades, The Nature Conservancy has indeed staked out an unusual niche among environmental organizations. While many of our non-profit colleagues have engaged extensively in legal and lobbying efforts to regulate the impact that property owners and industries have on natural resources, the Conservancy has focused on protecting critical natural areas by acquiring them, or helping like-minded organizations acquire them.

In order to utilize finite staff and financial resources most effectively, and to preserve our ability to work with the broadest possible range of landowners, the Conservancy for the most part has not gotten involved with regulatory issues, either in legislatures or with land use agencies.

We recognize, however, that governments — federal, state and municipal — own many critical natural areas. Moreover, they often have much larger financial resources available to purchase natural areas than could ever be raised privately. With a relatively small investment of our resources and expertise, we can often influence and assist governments in protecting the habitats of rare species through land acquisition and management.

In the 1960s, various environmental organizations spent enormous resources to finally obtain passage of Connecticut's tidal wetlands laws in 1969. Some of these groups then spent years fighting proposals by the Stratford Development Company, owners of the Great Meadows, to develop that marsh. The Conservancy agreed with the goals of these groups, but for the reasons stated above,

had not participated in these activities.

In the meantime, the Conservancy was pursuing other goals, including working closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the state Department of Environmental Protection, and Connecticut's Congressional delegation to help with the creation of a coastal wildlife refuge in Connecticut.

The result was a refuge that included 70-acre Chimon Island in Norwalk; 67-acre Sheffield Island, about a mile west of Chimon Island; and Milford Point, a 7.6-acre barrier spit at the mouth of the Housatonic River. In 1985, the U.S. Coast Guard gave 4.5-acre Falkner Island off the coast of Guilford to the Fish and Wildlife Service, bringing the size of the refuge to 145 acres.

Congress had established the Connecticut Coastal Wildlife Refuge in 1985 and renamed it the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge in 1987, after U.S. Congressman McKinney, who died in May of that year. McKinney led the state's congressional delegation in sponsoring the bill that created the refuge.

In 1990, the time seemed right for the Conservancy to pursue its own approach to the deadlock at Great Meadows. Increasing skepticism in federal courts toward land use regulation and specific state court rulings concerning the area suggested that the Stratford Development Company might make headway with significant portions of its plans. Yet, the 20-year regulatory battle over its proposals and the sagging economy left the company more receptive to the idea of selling the most ecologically critical portions of its property to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

This promised to be an extremely complex and expensive transaction. The Fish and Wildlife Service, like many government agencies, faced staff cuts and increased work demands. As with other projects, the Service asked the Conservancy's attorneys and other staff to assist in the Stratford transaction, from helping with the mundane aspects of

arranging meetings and generating draft contracts, to consulting with the Service's real estate professionals.

Once the two-year negotiations produced a series of options, the Conservancy's Government Relations staff in Connecticut and Washington, D.C. assisted our Congressional delegation in the extremely competitive process of obtaining funds from Congress for the acquisition.

There are constant demands on the Conservancy to lobby on regulatory matters. In the case of the Endangered Species Act or legislation directly affecting one of our preserves, we become involved. Otherwise, our lobbying is restricted to obtaining funds or tax incentives for research or for the purchase of critical areas from willing landowners. The Great Meadows project is a case where different approaches were needed at different times, and we were fortunate enough to be able to choose the right time for our method.

— LES COREY

Vice President and Executive Director



▲ Connecticut Chapter Director of Government Relations David Sutherland (at lectern) announces the most recent land purchase at Great Meadows on October 3. In attendance were (left to right) Assistant Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Arthur J. Rocque Jr., Connecticut Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Regional Director Cathleen I. Short, Rep. Christopher Shays, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, and Rep. Rosa DeLauro.

Thompson, Wyndham Land Trust Protect Cedar Swamp

THE TOWN OF THOMPSON AND THE WYNDHAM LAND TRUST, INC., with encouragement from The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter, have protected a portion of an Atlantic white cedar swamp in Thompson that was imminently threatened by residential development.

The swamp is "one of the ten nicest in the state," commented Ken Metzler, senior biologist at the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Data Base. "It provides habitat for a state-listed species and has a high potential for state-listed invertebrates as well."

Acting through its Conservation and Inland Wetland Commission, the town required a conservation restriction to be placed on approximately 25 acres of the most critical part of the property as a condition of its subdivision approval, assuring a high level of protection for the swamp. Additionally, the Wyndham Land Trust privately raised funds to purchase the two most critical parcels, guaranteeing the permanent protection of a total of 29.66 acres.

"I've hoped to see this area protected since 1990 when it first came to my attention," said Fran Morano, chair of the Conservation and

Inland Wetland Commission. "I'm grateful to the Wyndham Land Trust for wanting to get involved and to The Nature Conservancy for bringing us together." Ms. Morano also commended the hard work and assistance of Carolyn A. Werge, town enforcement officer, and William H. St. Onge, the town attorney.

"It has been quite a task," said Phil James, president of the land trust, about their purchase of the two parcels, "We are delighted that we were able to have some small part in helping to protect this scarce, fragile and interesting bit of habitat." The Wyndham Land Trust, formed in 1975, has protected more than 470 acres in Windham County.

"Both groups are to be commended for their courage to forge ahead with this challenging project," said Connecticut Chapter Executive Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. "The Nature Conservancy is glad it was able to assist in the preservation of this important natural community by contributing encouragement and know-how." 

— LESLEY OLSEN



© Richard Booth

▲ Lower Pond, Thompson.

Two Friends Give Chapter Largest Ever Bequest

JANET JAINSCHIGG BELIEVES IN DOING. Throughout her life she has dedicated herself to making a difference. The work of the Red Cross and historic preservation are long-time passions. Her involvement with The Nature Conservancy is more recent; Janet describes herself as a "convert."

After Janet's husband passed away, she moved to Chester with her now late friend, Emilie Hill Farrell. There they began to develop a deep appreciation for the Connecticut River and the beauty of its extraordinary tidal region.

Emilie's strong commitment to conservation led her to leave a large portion of her estate in trust to The Nature Conservancy.

Janet has likewise provided for the Conservancy in her estate planning. The combined assets of these women's provisions will give the Connecticut Chapter its largest ever bequest.

When asked if she would grant an interview for a *From The Land* article, Janet didn't hesitate, saying "I would be delighted to help. I hope our story will inspire others to consider including the Conservancy in their estate planning. It's a wonderful choice. Although I have had many opportunities to support outstanding organizations, the more deeply involved I become with the Conservancy, the more pleased I am with my choice to help fund its activities. Each time I see the river, or one of the other areas the Conservancy is working in, I know that Emilie and I are part of helping keep it forever healthy and beautiful." (CONT. ON PAGE 11)

The Nature Conservancy At Work

	Worldwide	Connecticut
Total Transactions:	15,664	638
Total Acres Protected:	7,506,000	19,755
Total Acres Registered:	454,000	6,149
Total Acres Saved	7,960,000	25,904
Members	790,200	17,637
Corporate Associates	1,372	22

On the cover:
The Great Meadows Salt Marsh,
Stratford.

Volunteers Clear the Way at Iron Mountain

It's Time to Visit . . .

Iron Mountain Preserve

Tucked amid the picturesque, rolling hills of south Kent lies the Conservancy's 322-acre Iron Mountain Preserve. This preserve was created thanks to the largess of several donors: Annabel G. Irving donated 257 acres in 1974; Brigitta Lieberman, 19 acres in 1983; Joseph Gitterman, 6.9 acres in 1987; and Vilma Kurzer, 39.8 acres in 1991. Whether you are a Sunday stroller, avid hiker, or ardent birder, Iron Mountain has much to offer. The two-mile loop trail leads the observant hiker through a variety of habitats, and gives a visitor a sense of the area's human history.

Iron Mountain has a history typical of much of Litchfield County. Early clearing for grazing, cultivation, and timber cutting in the 1700s was followed by a gradual abandonment of the land starting in the early 1800s. Besides the stone walls and forest road, scattered segments of barbed wire fence give evidence of former fields in the upland forest. After much of the area was reforested, the charcoal industry again cleared nearly all of the drier forest in the mid- to late-1800's. After the charcoaling ended, the cleared areas were again left to reforest. The upland oak woods today are 60 to 100 years old, and remnants of charcoal pits are still visible.

Recent work on the trail by Conservancy staff and volunteers has made the trail safe and enjoyable for hiking. If you need some respite from your everyday routine, this preserve is sure to be a good choice. 🍃

— MARLENE L. KOPCHA

DIRECTIONS: From the junction of Routes 7 and 341 in Kent, take Route 341 east for approximately three miles. Go left on South Road, left on Flat Rock Road, right on Treasure Hill Road, then look for the preserve entrance on your right.



© Bruce Karshner

LAST JUNE, chapter staff and five volunteers went to work on the trails at our Iron Mountain Preserve in Kent. With the assistance of Henry Mellen, our long-time preserve monitor for this site, the work party was planned last fall, well in advance. Though the trail receives annual maintenance, it had been several years since the last full-scale clearing effort.

In that time, tree seedlings, shrubs and low-growing plant life have slowly invaded the trail. Armed with pruners, lopping shears, saws and a brush cutter, the group widened the treadway of the trail, allowing for easy passage. "With the network of volunteers the Conservancy has, we regularly plan work parties for various preserves," said Assistant Preserve Steward Marlene Kopcha. "Without the help of our volunteers, we could not accomplish as much as we currently do. Plus, it's an enjoyable way to improve our preserves in good company."

At Iron Mountain, named for one of the area's better known iron mines, century-old charcoal pits are still detectable, giving a hint of the area's history. Wetlands, an old apple orchard, and hardwood trees make up this nearly 300-acre preserve, with the 1.5 mile trail passing by all these features. Aside from trail clearing and other tasks, work parties such as these provide volunteers an opportunity to become familiar with some of the hidden-away gems of the Conservancy's preserve portfolio.

As is sometimes the case, one day of work reveals further projects that will be necessary to accomplish. The trail at Iron Mountain will require two small foot bridges to span drainage channels that carry rain water (and melting snow in early spring) from the slopes of the preserve down to its wetlands. "Preserve maintenance is an ongoing effort," Marlene said. "We encourage all Conservancy members to explore our preserves, and now that this trail is in top shape, perhaps a few folks will be tempted to seek it out."

On a day as beautiful as the late spring day we had for our volunteer work party, there are few places more peaceful or enjoyable. If you are interested in assisting with the volunteer efforts of The Nature Conservancy, please contact David Gumbart or Marlene Kopcha at 344-0716. 🍃

— DAVID GUMBART

*Pictured above:
Iron Mountain, Kent.*

Tiger Beetle Update

IN THE LAST *From the Land* we reported on the rarest species in Connecticut, the Puritan tiger beetle (*Cicindela puritana*). During the summer of 1994, we made some interesting discoveries about this species and its habitat.

The summer started with a serendipitous phone call from a student, Jim Dlubac from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., who was interested in a volunteer internship working with invertebrates. With approval from state and federal agencies, researcher Phil Nothnagle was able to implement a biological monitoring program that had been impossible before Jim's offer.

Using small dots of different colored paint in various patterns on the beetles' back, as many as 36 beetles were marked at each of three areas. These areas are from 0.75 to 2.5 miles apart on both sides of the Connecticut River. Although the beetles are good fliers and are known to travel several miles, it had not been determined if these particular populations interacted. Dr. Nothnagle and Dlubac were delighted to find that a marked beetle had moved across the river to one of the other sites. Using binoculars, Dr. Nothnagle and Dlubac made a number of interesting observations related to the mating and longevity of individual beetles. Analysis of the data will continue over the winter.

Over the past few years, the tiger beetle's habitat has been threatened by invasion of vegetation along the banks of the river. Many of these shrubs are non-native species, such as false indigo. Over the past two years, Connecticut Chapter staff members have experimented with various methods of removing the vegetation and restoring the beetles' habitat. This summer, a series of experiments have identified a successful control method. It remains to be seen if the beetles will move into this newly restored area!

All of these projects take place with the generous cooperation and support of the landowners involved. We are grateful for their willingness and interest in these projects. Funding for Phil Nothnagle's research was provided by the Connecticut Chapter and the state Department of Environmental Protection. 🌿

— BETH LAPIN



© Beth Lapin

▲
Puritan tiger beetle, marked for study.

A work party to cut vegetation near habitat of the Puritan tiger beetle. Left to right are Stewardship Ecologist Andy Cutko, volunteer Carol Kasper, and interns Darryl Brose and David Zakrzewski.

◀



© Chris Wood

New Farm and Nature Trail at Sunny Valley Preserve

Grazing cows watch visitors walk along the Sunny Valley Preserve's newest trail on the main farm in New Milford. The visitors watch back as they pass by pumpkin fields, rows of ten-foot high corn and green fields of clover and alfalfa. Then fragrant wildflower meadows appear, humming with insects of every variety, while hawks and songbirds call from surrounding trees. Finally, the trail enters a deep and quiet forest, thick with oak trees that sow the forest floor with their acorns.

All these sights and sounds and smells await hikers on the preserve's farm and nature trail, which runs one to two miles, depending on the loops taken. A walk can be along entirely level and easy terrain, or can include a brief climb over ledges and through mountain laurel thickets. Birders can see a wide variety of migrants along "Bird Lane," at the southern end of the trail, while cow lovers can watch the grazing bovines in the pasture at the north end. At any point, hikers may encounter local farmers with their tractors and farm equipment, working the fields.

The trail is being developed as part of the public access program that the preserve is implementing. It is open every day during daylight hours, and guided walks will be scheduled throughout the year.

— CHRIS WOOD

Pictured above:
One of the 1,200 people who visited the Sunny Valley Preserve on Open Farm Day, October 8, climbs into the saddle of a Ford tractor.

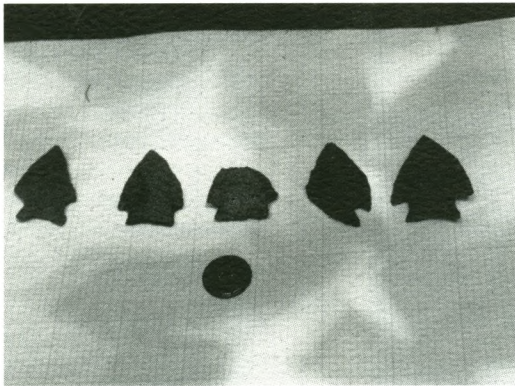


© Lesley Olsen

Connecticut Jones?

Remains of a pre-colonial fire pit at the Lord Cove Preserve in Lyme.

© Photos: David Gumbart



▲ Projectile points, or arrowheads, found at the Lord Cove Preserve.

CONNECTICUT IS RICH IN NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY, and information about precolonial tribes in our state can be found in museums, history books, and folklore...as well as in the ground, as yet undiscovered.

There is much more to learn about how these peoples lived, but how do we find information on what happened more than 1,000 years ago, long before European settlers came to this land?

Enter David George, an archeologist working on his doctorate at the University of Connecticut.

George's studies focus on plant cultivation by Native Americans before the advent of corn, beans and squash as major crops. So that George could study one of the areas in which tribes lived, The Nature Conservancy made one of its preserves near the Connecticut River available to him this past summer.

The preserve was known to have cultural artifacts such

as arrowheads, woodworking tools and pottery shards, and a brief excavation made ten years ago provided fundamental information for this summer's dig.

To search for plant remains, George and his students first located storage pits and fire pits, then took soil samples from them. In a laboratory they put the samples through a process known as flotation, to separate plant remains from the soil.

The analysis of the soil is underway; if George finds crops such as goosefoot, marsh elder and sunflower, that may indicate a knowledge of plant cultivation and domestication currently not believed to be part of Native American culture until later periods. The data will also provide insight on how much Native Americans relied on hunting and gathering, and on the mobility attributed to earlier Native American tribes.

"This year's excavations provided a unique look into Connecticut's prehistory," said George. "We were excited to have had a chance to excavate such wonderful sites, and thank The Nature Conservancy for assisting us."

Though further studies and other dig sites are needed to prove the hypothesis of plant cultivation before corn became widespread, The Nature Conservancy was glad to provide an opportunity to study local Native American culture. 🌿

— DAVID GUMBART

Wish List

Many chapter members have been very generous in lending and donating useful items to us. Any in-kind donation is tax deductible.

Some of our current needs are:

- Video Cassette Recorder (VCR)
- or combination television and VCR
- Collator with 12 or 14 slots
- Increment Corer, a tool used to measure the age and growth rate of trees.

... and a note of thanks!

The chapter would like to thank Paul Wagner and Farney Eilers for their generous donations of planimeters, instruments that measure land area on maps. Thanks as well to the several others who offered planimeters in response to a recent wish list.

© Judy Preston



◀ Volunteers and past White Oak Award recipients Edwin Wadstrom of Hartford and Angelo Frank of New Haven (left and center left) team up with Evan Bargnesi of Deep River and Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. for some volleyball at the chapter's volunteer picnic, September 17.



TIDELANDS OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER



Chapter to Purchase Addition to Selden Creek Property

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TIDAL WETLANDS of the lower Connecticut River gained 220 acres of protected land on September 1, more than doubling the size of the chapter's 104-acre preserve at the site.

The chapter signed an option with Ferdinand W. Coudert for the purchase of the land on Selden Creek in Lyme, one of the largest individually owned parcels of natural land on the lower Connecticut River.

Coudert agreed to sell the property for \$1.1 million, a price significantly below its fair market value. To cover the purchase and closing costs and to create a preserve stewardship endowment, the chapter has set a fund-raising goal of \$1.4 million, the largest fund-raising goal for an individual preserve in the chapter's history. The chapter must secure significant pledges toward this amount by early 1995, or it will have to take a large loan and pay more interest, driving up the cost.

"I am pleased this land is of such significance, and that I am able to make this contribution," Coudert said. "I hope it helps protect this region's environment, and that it is beneficial to many generations to come."

"Ferdinand Coudert is making a significant donation to conservation in Connecticut," said Leslie N. Corey Jr., executive director of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter. "Mr. Coudert is giving us a bargain on a large piece of developable land in a desirable area. Everyone who cares about the lower Connecticut River will be grateful." (CONT. ON PAGE 2)

Tremaine Foundation Pledges \$1 Million to Tidelands Program

\$500,000 Designated to Selden Creek

IN THE LARGEST FOUNDATION GRANT toward land protection in the history of the Connecticut Chapter, The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation of Meriden has pledged \$1 million to the chapter's Tidelands of the Connecticut River program.

Of this money, as much as \$500,000 will be applied as a challenge grant toward the purchase of a 220-acre addition to the Selden Creek Preserve. Private donations will be sought to match dollar-for-dollar the Tremaine Foundation's \$500,000 grant.

"The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation makes this commitment with great respect for The Nature Conservancy's innovative leadership toward preserving this unique ecological system," said Tremaine Foundation Chair Burton G. Tremaine Jr. "It gives us particular pleasure because our family has had the good fortune to enjoy the beauty and diversity of the area for generations. We look forward to new partnerships in reaching the Conservancy's ambitious goals."

With assets of approximately \$60 million, the Tremaine Foundation makes grants in learning disabilities, the environment, population, and the visual arts.

"The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation is living up to its founder's foresight and imagination with this gift," said Connecticut Chapter Executive Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. "The foundation has cut a daunting fund-raising job down to size. This is an investment in the future that will pay off for many generations to come." 

Addition to Selden Creek Property

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

Land Trust Sponsors Research on Essex Shoreline

THE ESSEX LAND CONSERVATION TRUST sponsored the research of two botanists in the Tidelands region this summer. Cathy Garnett of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Christine Weilhoefer of Connecticut College were supervised by the Conservancy, and conducted a detailed vegetation inventory of the Essex shoreline.

The study provides important data on the plant species found along the Essex coves and Falls River, and shows how variable the shoreline areas are. The interns summarized the information into a notebook, a copy of which is available at the Essex Library. In addition, the land trust plans to summarize key points from the study into a brochure, which will be used for discussing conservation options with interested area residents. The information collected by the interns also provides an important baseline for future studies.

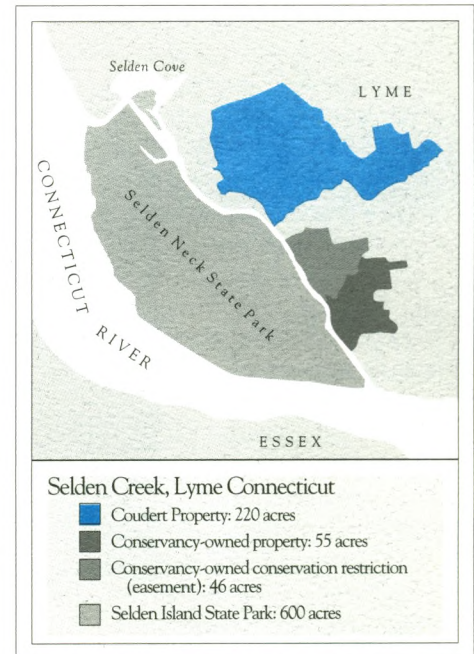
The land trust appropriated \$2,500 to fund one internship and received a matching grant from the Rockfall Foundation of Middletown for the other. 

One of the most biologically significant sites on the lower Connecticut River, this preserve takes the name of the creek that divides it from Selden Island State Park. With wooded hills and pristine freshwater marshes, it provides vital habitat for many plants and animals, including songbirds, shorebirds and rails, and is also a critical site for wintering bald eagles. Spectacular vertical cliffs along the marshes provide dramatic vistas of the creek.

This 220-acre parcel provides an important ecological buffer to the Selden Creek marshes. The slopes to the east of the creek are steep and could easily erode if not protected, irreparably harming the wetlands below. Protection of this large undeveloped tract will not only buffer the marshes from damage, but will ensure preservation of the solitude and quiet required by wintering bald eagles.

This acquisition is of particular significance to The Nature Conservancy because the Selden Creek marshes are key wetlands in the Tidelands of the Connecticut River region, on which the Connecticut Chapter is focusing much of its attention. Tidelands of the Connecticut River is a comprehensive program to protect the resources of the lower Connecticut River in Connecticut. The Tidelands program is part of The Nature Conservancy's international "Last Great Places" initiative, which focuses on protecting 40 large ecological systems in this hemisphere.

The Nature Conservancy purchased 55 acres on Selden Creek from Coudert in 1986 for \$400,000, with the help of a \$50,000 challenge grant from the Connecticut River Gateway Commission and many other private donations. The chapter also received a donation of an adjacent 46-acre conservation easement from Coudert. In 1989 the chapter purchased three acres on Selden Island, an inholding of the 600-acre state park, and later transferred that land to the state Department of Environmental Protection.



The 220-acre addition to this preserve is one of the largest remaining unprotected pieces of natural land in the Tidelands of the Connecticut River region in individual (as opposed to corporate) ownership.

In the entire Selden Creek area, 775 acres are in protected ownership; they belong either to the Conservancy, the state Department of Environmental Protection, or the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.





Rails, Reeds, and the River

Mapping the River Bed

WANK-WANK-WANK," screeched the elusive creature as it played hide-and-seek in the marsh's cattail thicket. A quick turn of the head caught the diminutive bird and verified it as a Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*), one of many secretive bird species best identified by eliciting responses from tape-recorded calls.

The rail was observed last summer by A. Hunter Brawley, one of two researchers hired by the chapter to evaluate the Connecticut River's exceptional bird habitat. As a graduate student at Connecticut College, Brawley was awarded a Conservation Biology Research Grant from the Connecticut Chapter to study the effects of the invasive common reed (*Phragmites australis*) on bird use of tidal marshes. His preliminary results indicate that several species show no preference for sites with and without the reed.

Dr. Robert Craig, noted state ornithologist and co-author of *Rare and Endangered Species of Connecticut and Their Habitats*, surveyed fourteen key Tidelands sites to update patterns detected at those same sites from 1974 to 1987. The chapter funded his study through a generous grant from the Bernice Barbour Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Craig's research provided several noteworthy results. A pair of king rails (*Rallus elegans*), listed as a threatened species in Connecticut, was documented in the same location in 1994 as it was 20 years ago. Other patterns were more disturbing. Craig confirmed a significant black duck (*Anas rubripes*) population decline and habitat range constriction — factors that he said "represent classic extinction patterns" for this species.

While the scope of these surveys is limited to specific sites within the Tidelands area, the studies nonetheless provide critical insights into the overall trends of the region's bird populations. Copies of both studies will be given to the state Department of Environmental Protection to assist in their protection and management efforts in the Tidelands region. —ANDY CUTKO

IMAGINE LOOKING OVER the side of a boat on the Connecticut River and seeing the river bottom, ten, twelve, fifteen feet below. This summer, scientists from Wesleyan University in Middletown were doing just that, but on a computer monitor.

Led by Wesleyan Professor Dr. Suzanne O'Connell, researchers used state-of-the-art sonar and computer equipment to map the bed of the Connecticut River estuary — where it meets Long Island Sound. Receiving signals from side scan sonar, as the technology is called, a large computer monitor on board Wesleyan's research vessel displays a color image that scrolls slowly down, revealing changing patterns of sediment, boulders, and even lobster pots on the river bed below. Coupled with the wizardry of orbiting satellites to precisely calculate latitude and longitude, side scan sonar technology represents an exciting advance in scientists' ability to understand aquatic ecological systems.

The vessel tows a five foot long torpedo-like device (called a "fish") housing the sonar and other equipment. The fish emits a constant sonar impulse (a metronome-like tick) that bounces off the river bed, and is recorded directly to the on-board computer. The instrument is sensitive enough to distinguish between the type of surface struck by the signal; a rock, for example, makes a different sound from mud. It is essential to conduct the work in the early morning to avoid the wakes of other boats — an interruption to the graphics produced, as well as a very real danger to the sensitive electronic equipment on board.

The map and acoustic images produced are ideally suited to identify different types of materials — sand, silt, organic material — that make up the estuary bottom. The study included salinity and temperature measurements as well. This information in turn has applications for understanding habitat for fish and sub-



© Judy Preston

▲ Joe LaBella (left) of the Wesleyan Department of Earth and Environmental Science, and Ralph Lewis, State Geologist, of the state Geological and Natural History Survey, with the sidescan sonar "fish."

merged aquatic vegetation; will add to our understanding of the geological processes of the river; and will be a useful educational tool.

This project is primarily funded by a grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection's Long Island Sound License Plate Fund to the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey, which teamed up with Wesleyan University. Two-year financial support for a graduate assistant was provided by The Nature Conservancy. —JUDY PRESTON

Wetlands of International Importance

ON OCTOBER 14 the wetlands of the lower Connecticut River joined 13 other wetlands complexes in the United States that have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance. The International Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in accepting the nomination by Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, noted the importance of the lower Connecticut River to migrating birds and fish and many endangered

than those of most states in this country. The United States signed the treaty to lend support to other countries who are working to protect wetlands, and to provide recognition to selected wetlands in the United States.

Among the other 13 sites in the U.S. are the Izembek Lagoon in Alaska, the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia and Florida, the Everglades, the Cache and White Rivers in Arkansas, the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay.

"Those who have been lucky enough to canoe one of the small tidal creeks, or to cruise up the main stem viewing eagles, have always known that this is a very special place," said Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. "With Congress' establishment of the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge along the river, The Nature Conservancy's recognition of the Tidelands as a Last Great Place, and now the Ramsar designation, it appears that a great many people from a great many places recognize the lower Connecticut River's significance as a habitat for wildlife."

— DAVID SUTHERLAND

© David Sutherland



▲ Nature Conservancy Vice President for Major Programs Dennis B. Wolkoff addresses a gathering at Gillette Castle in East Haddam to announce the designation of the lower Connecticut River as "Wetlands of International Importance." Left to right are Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt; Senator Joseph I. Lieberman; Commissioner of Environmental Protection Timothy Keeney.

species.

More than seventy countries have signed on to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, which was first signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, with the goal of conserving critical wetlands. The general obligations of signatory countries under the Convention are less stringent



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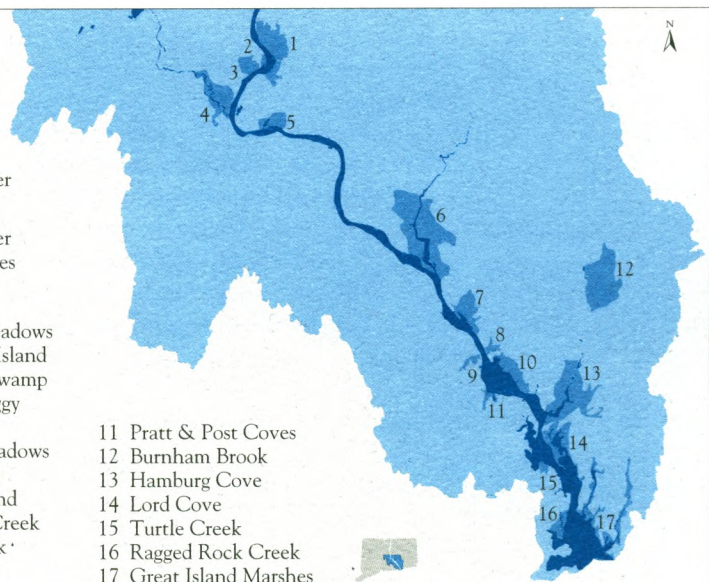
Dr. Juliana Barrett
Geoffrey C. Hughes Tidelands
Program Director

TIDELANDS OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

- Connecticut River Watershed
- Connecticut River & major tributaries
- Core Sites:

- 1 Wangunk Meadows
- 2 Gildersleeve Island
- 3 Dead Mans Swamp
- 4 Round & Boggy Meadows
- 5 Pecauset Meadows
- 6 Salmon Cove
- 7 Chapman Pond
- 8 Whalebone Creek
- 9 Chester Creek
- 10 Selden Creek

- 11 Pratt & Post Coves
- 12 Burnham Brook
- 13 Hamburg Cove
- 14 Lord Cove
- 15 Turtle Creek
- 16 Ragged Rock Creek
- 17 Great Island Marshes



Panamanian Partner Visits Connecticut

ONE OF LATIN AMERICA'S most dynamic conservation leaders made a brief and impressive visit to Connecticut in June. Juan Carlos Navarro is the executive director of *Asociacion Nacional para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza* (ANCON), Panama's largest non-profit conservation organization, and an influential partner in our effort to preserve tropical ecosystems. Juan Carlos inspired everyone he met with his powerful commitment and with ANCON's extraordinary accomplishments in Panama.

In the short decade since ANCON's founding in 1985, Navarro has led the organization to the forefront of natural resource protection. ANCON works to acquire critical additions to Panama's national parks, manages parks that already exist, and initiates sustainable economic development projects in the communities that surround the parks. Their efforts protect not only Panama's phenomenal array of plant and animal species, but also two indigenous groups of people, the Cuna and Embera tribes, which have lived in the wild Darien region on Panama's Colombian border for thousands of years.

Considering the Darien's unparalleled biological diversity, its large population of indigenous people, its size and remoteness, and the environmental pressures on the area, it is clear that quick action is necessary. The Connecticut Chapter is privileged to be a member of the partnership that is so effectively taking that action.

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter has adopted the Darien Biosphere Reserve as a project to which we will contribute considerable funding. We know that the long-term health of our own environment is ultimately linked to the health of tropical ecological systems like the Darien, and we are committed to helping ANCON with its efforts to protect this area. We are fortunate to have had Juan Carlos Navarro present the invaluable Panamanian perspective on our partnership in this struggle, and look forward to his next visit when he will once again fuel the engine of international cooperation. 🌿

— LESLIE LEMAY



At a reunion at Stewart and Connie Greenfield's house of participants in the chapter's 1993 trip to Panama are (left to right) Connecticut Chapter Trustee and International Committee Chairman Randolph K. Byers; ANCON Director Juan Carlos Navarro; Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr.; Greenfield; Board Chairman Anthony P. Grassi; and Brian L. Houseal, Director of the Conservancy's Central America Program.

Experience Panama's Wonders on Chapter Tour

In response to the enthusiastic reports of last year's participants, the Connecticut Chapter is offering its members a second special opportunity to experience some of this hemisphere's most extraordinary natural areas on an eight-day chapter tour to Panama. Beginning on March 24, 1995, the trip will feature a three-night stay at the Cana Lodge and Education Center in the Darien National Park, a 1.5 million-acre reserve teeming with birds — including four species of large macaws — and other wildlife.

Snorkeling in the Bastimentos Underwater National Park in the Caribbean Sea and a fascinating tour of the Miraflores Locks of the Panama Canal will also be featured. The trip will be escorted by a very experienced, English-speaking naturalist guide, and by chapter staff. Representatives of ANCON (National Association for the Conservation of Nature), Panama's largest conservation organization, will explain their work to preserve the Central American country's spectacular biological diversity.

For more information on how you can participate, please call David Sutherland at (203) 344-0716. 🌿

A Payroll Deduction Plan for the Environment

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter is the beneficiary of many generous gifts from individuals and from the companies that generously match the gifts of their employees. Now, along with other members of the Environmental Federation of New England (EFNE), the chapter has begun receiving support from donors directly through payroll deductions.

"Many people interested in supporting the environment opt to give this way because it saves them the trouble of writing their own checks," said Dorothy Millen, the chapter's membership and development assistant. "And it spreads their donation out over twelve months, rather than having to make it in one big bite."

EFNE is a consortium of 45 environmental organizations, both large and small, from the six New England states, working to raise funds in the workplace. Connecticut members include The Nature Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Connecticut Conservation Association, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Housatonic Valley Association, the Long Island Sound Task Force, and the Southern New England Forest Consortium. Employees of more than 1,000 New England workplaces will contribute to EFNE this year. If you know an employer who may be interested in workplace giving for the environment, please contact Dorothy Millen at (203) 344-0716.

34th Annual Meeting Focuses on the

MORE THAN 250 trustees, volunteers, members, friends and staff of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter enjoyed beautiful fall New England weather for the chapter's 34th annual meeting, which was held at the home of John Griswold on Griswold Point in Old Lyme on October 15.

The Year in Review

This past year the Connecticut Chapter completed 13 land protection projects totalling 348.77 acres using a variety of protection techniques, including gifts of fee ownership, easements, and bargain purchases. Of these projects, seven were of high ecological significance, protecting rare species and critical habitats. The remaining six were important open space projects that protected valuable natural resources.

While \$315,000 were spent to protect these 348.77 acres, the fair market value of this land is estimated to be \$2,351,350, a very good return on chapter funds. We were able to accomplish this by receiving donations of land valued at more than \$1,203,250 and by negotiating the purchase of properties at amounts less than their fair market values, saving us more than \$833,100.

This year's efforts resulted in the creation of two new preserves, one at Lower Pond in Windham and another at Holleran Swamp in Norfolk. Lower Pond, which includes a portion of an Atlantic white cedar swamp, was a joint effort of the town of Thompson and the Wyndham Land Trust, Inc., and the chapter. Holleran Swamp provides habitat to sixteen rare plant species.

The Connecticut Chapter has also added to several existing preserves, including two gifts totaling 18.12 acres added to the Sunny Valley Preserve in Bridgewater; a purchase from People's Bank of Bridgeport with the help of the town of Weston, adding 57.42 acres to Devil's Den; an additional gift of an easement from Jane and Endicott Davison of Lyme, adding 31.2 acres to the Lord Cove Preserve; a purchase of 8.1 acres from Northeast Capital

Corp. to protect a portion of Whalebone Creek in Hadlyme from development; a gift from the estate of Anne Tractman of 11.35 acres at Asproom Mountain in Ridgefield; a gift of an easement by the Gahagan Family of 104.18 acres at Pleasant Valley in Lyme; and a gift of ten acres from R. Christopher Blake in memory of his father to be added to Robbins Swamp in Canaan.

The chapter helped secure \$2 million in federal funding, in addition to \$1.6 million approved by Congress the previous year, and \$680,000 from the U.S. Migratory Bird Commission, for the purchase of 335 acres at the Great Meadows Salt Marsh in Stratford (see page 1).

The chapter also firmly established the Tidelands of the Connecticut River program in its first year, including receiving a \$1 million endowment for the director's position from the Geoffrey C. Hughes Foundation.

Financial Report

As of June 30, 1994, the cash balance in accounts managed by the Connecticut Chapter totalled \$9.4 million. Of that total, \$6.2 million is in permanent capital and true endowments where its principal will remain untouched. \$3.5 million is in operating and capital reserve endowments, whose principal can be used if needed. Debts in land and operating centers total \$276,000.

Connecticut Chapter fiscal year 1994 operating income totalled \$1,628,000. Excluding internal transfers to operating reserve endowments, after expenses the chapter's operating budget ended the fiscal year with a deficit of \$239,000, primarily attributable to Sunny Valley operations and the start-up costs of launching several new program initiatives. This deficit was less than anticipated by the fiscal 1994 budget. Management and fund-raising plans are in place to provide for the repayment of all of these costs over the next three years.

For land projects and endowments both in Connecticut and out-of-state, including the Latin America and Caribbean Program, the chapter raised more than \$10 million in fiscal year 1994. Of this total, \$1.34 million was in cash for use in Connecticut, doubling the amount raised the previous fiscal year. And \$8.7 million was in pledges, land gifts, and deferred gifts.



▲
Top:
Joseph J. Dowhan, project leader of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southern New England/New York Bight Coastal Ecosystem Office, was the meeting's featured speaker.

Bottom:
Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. (left) and Chairman Anthony P. Grassi spread the news about the Great Meadows Salt Marsh in Stratford.

Opposite page, bottom left and right: Chapter Board Treasurer A. Eugene Billings left the board after ten years of service, and Chapter Trustee Ogden Tanner left the board after seven years of service.



Tidelands of the Connecticut River

Although the chapter is in good financial health, we are still a long way from having sufficient funds needed to complete even our current conservation priorities. We are under contract or in negotiations for properties worth many millions of dollars. Among these are some of the most ecologically significant natural areas left in the state of Connecticut. In our Tidelands of the Connecticut River campaign alone, another \$11 million must be raised to meet currently identifiable needs.

The Connecticut Chapter accounts are available for inspection at our office.

Nominating Committee Report

Three new trustees were elected to the chapter board. Biographies of Diana Field Atwood of Old Lyme and Ronald W. Jeitz of Weston appeared in the last issue of *From the Land*.

John A. Millington of Washington Depot is vice president for planning and development for the Council on Foreign Relations. He chairs the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality and is an aggressive advocate for the Greenways project and for preservation of open space in Connecticut. He has been active since 1980 working closely with political candidates on a national and state level. (three year term)

Patricia L. Malcolm of Greenwich was re-elected for a three year term.

At the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the following trustees were elected as officers of the chapter for one-year terms:

Anthony P. Grassi, Wilton, *Chairman*

Austin D. Barney II, West Simsbury

Vice Chairman for Development

Daniel P. Brown Jr., West Granby

Vice Chairman for Land Acquisition

Evan S. Griswold, Old Lyme

Vice Chairman for Stewardship

J. Wyatt Uhlein, Litchfield, *Treasurer*

Peter B. Cooper, Woodbridge, *Secretary*



Billings



Tanner

Awards

Devil's Den Preserve Manager **Fred Moore** received a special award in recognition of 15 years of service to The Nature Conservancy. Moore's award was accepted on his behalf by Devil's Den Director Dr. Stephen Patton.

Every year the Connecticut Chapter recognizes volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to chapter activities with the White Oak Award. This year's recipients:

Tom DeJohn of Eastford for his splendid hand-made signs to mark preserves.

Alison Friedkin of Middletown for time and energy in all aspects of the chapter's work, and especially for her efforts with the Tidelands of the Connecticut River program.

Jim Schaper of Weston for work on many trail improvement projects and a wide variety of new wooden signs for the Devil's Den Preserve.

Arthur Titus of New Milford for his donation of more than 20 hours of work per week at the Sunny Valley Preserve in the past year.

Ben Olewine of West Redding for his efforts in Connecticut in promoting interest in the conservation of critical habitat for Jamaica's bird populations.

Every year the Connecticut Chapter awards Certificates of Special Recognition to organizations and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the preservation of natural areas and biological diversity in Connecticut. This year's recipients:

Mark H. Sullivan of Canterbury and **John E. Bean** of Central Connecticut State University for donating surveying services.

The **Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program** in Groton and the **University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension Service** in Old Saybrook for working in partnership with the chapter on a study of Chester Creek.

The town of **Chester** for its enthusiastic support

of the Chester Creek study.

Mark Branse of Glastonbury for his volunteer efforts in promoting open space preservation throughout Connecticut.

The state **Department of Transportation** for its significant support of the Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Data Base.

The **Essex Land Conservation Trust** for sponsoring two interns in a joint project including both the land trust and the chapter's Tidelands of the Connecticut River program. 🌿



▲ The Winner's Circle:

Front row, left to right: Chester Arnold of Sea Grant; James Gibbons of the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service; Mark Branse of Glastonbury.

Standing, left to right: Alice Powers, president of the Essex Land Conservation Trust; Arthur Titus of New Milford; Board Chairman Anthony P. Grassi; Ben Olewine of West Redding; John E. Bean of Central Connecticut State University; Jim Schaper of Weston; Tom DeJohn of Eastford; Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr.; Alison Friedkin of Middletown; Chester First Selectman Martin L. Heft; Connecticut Commissioner of Transportation Emil H. Frankel.

Plenty of Opportunities for Interns



▲ Former intern Laurie Giannotti of Cheshire at work on the geographical information system.

New Regional Director

We are pleased to announce that Laura Johnson has taken over as director of the Conservancy's Eastern Regional Office in Boston. A graduate of Harvard and New York University of Law, Johnson joined the Conservancy as an Eastern Region attorney in 1982 with employment experience in business and in a law firm. As a regional attorney, she focused on issues of stewardship and preserve management. Johnson became Massachusetts State Director in 1986, managing during the next four years a vigorous land acquisition program and a growing state office. Upon returning to the Regional Office, Johnson directed a regional strategic planning effort, managed the Last Great Places initiative in the Conservancy's Eastern Region, and worked on legal issues.



AS THE NATURE CONSERVANCY continues to focus its research needs, a variety of opportunities have appeared for student interns and volunteers.

In addition to an expanding list of volunteer work parties, last summer included a bumper crop of

students who produced valuable products for the Connecticut Chapter's Science and Stewardship and Tidelands of the Connecticut River programs. We need site conservation plans — long-term strategies in written and graphic form outlining the land protection and stewardship priorities for a preserve — for many locations across the state, creating a long list of potential intern projects.

Interns at the Conservancy are typically students working toward a degree, with the internship providing course credit or a project for a graduate degree. Students are encouraged to work closely with an advisor and a Conservancy representative to design a project that suits both parties. Some interns, however, have sought to work with the Conservancy independent of their degree program, simply to gain experience — and resume material — working for a conservation organization.

Last summer, interns produced plans for four preserve sites and provided additional information through projects on non-point-source pollution, wetland buffers, and exotic plant species. One intern studied the regulatory aspects and protection strategies for a Connecticut River swamp. Another intern studied an endangered insect. (Please see "Tiger Beetle Update," page 5).

The Nature Conservancy provides reimbursement for travel, photocopying and telephone costs. Interns must present the final results of their work at an informal gathering of chapter staff and guests.

Preparing a site conservation plan requires a minimum of one visit to the site, library research, possible deed research and interviews with individuals knowledgeable about the site. Other hands-on internships cover a variety of topics, including biological monitoring of rare species, invasive species monitoring and control, preserve trail and boundary maintenance, and landowner research.

Our need for innovative and energetic interns continues to grow, and we are anxious to introduce students to the challenging field of conservation. At the Connecticut Field Office we want to work with interested individuals to provide a mutually beneficial experience. If you or someone you know is interested, give us a call today! 🌿

— JUDY PRESTON

V O L U N T E E R P R O F I L E

BEFORE THIS ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER went to press, Bob Judge, a long-time volunteer preserve monitor, was on his way to the snowy mountains of Colorado. While the Connecticut Chapter lost a valuable volunteer, the Colorado office gained one! Bob's attention to detail, exceptional record keeping and timely reports enabled the chapter's stewardship team to manage efficiently and effectively the sites Bob monitored. The chapter owns 60 preserves and has a legal interest in approximately 150 others (most of which are owned by land trusts), and it is impossible for stewardship staff to visit every one of these areas on an annual basis; therefore, our

volunteer monitors are vital to our management efforts.

What exactly is a preserve monitor? Volunteer preserve monitors assist the stewardship staff by visiting their assigned sites once a year, walking the boundaries of the site, checking to see if signs are present and in good condition, checking for signs of boundary encroachment, unauthorized use — for example, off-road vehicles, trail bikes, tree cutting — and trail erosion, if trails are present. For more information, please call Marlene Kopcha or David Gumbart at 344-0716 to find out more about the fulfilling work of a volunteer preserve monitor. 🌿

— MARLENE L. KOPCHA

Two Friends Give Chapter Largest Ever Bequest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



Janet is not only generous, she is busy — a woman actively enjoying her 80s. Try reaching her at home during the day, and you'll probably find yourself having to leave a message.

How did Janet want us to use her donation? "Well...wherever it will do the most good, of course. Emilie and I have seen what the Conservancy can do. We were especially pleased to learn about your non-confrontational approach. You know and conduct your business well. There are no restrictions on our

gifts. Our part is to do what we can by helping to provide the means for you to do your work, and then enjoy the results along with you."

This particular kind of gift is especially appreciated. Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. said, "The confidence donors like Janet and Emilie show in the Conservancy is extremely gratifying. It tells us that people understand and support our mission and believe in our ability to fulfill it. The flexibility to be able to use funds at our discretion allows us to position ourselves to seize unexpected opportunities and to support the critical day-to-day activities that surround our conservation efforts. We are extremely grateful to these two wonderful women." 🌿

— COLLEEN MACNEIL FREEMAN

Give Your Share(s) to Protect Their Home!



A GIFT of your appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds can help us save habitat for rare and endangered wildlife like the osprey. Your gift can also provide you with a charitable income tax deduction and may eliminate or reduce your capital gains tax.

For more information please contact Connecticut Chapter Director of Development Colleen MacNeil Freeman at (203) 344-0716, or return the form below. 🌿

✂️

- ☐ Please send me your "Ways of Giving" brochure so that I might consider tax-wise options for supporting the Conservancy.
- ☐ Please send me information about the Legacy Club and how to include The Nature Conservancy in my Will.
- ☐ I (we) have remembered The Nature Conservancy in my (our) Will or trust.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE

Please mail to: The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457-3788.

For more information on activities at the Katharine Ordway or Devil's Den Preserves in Weston, please call 226-4991.

Winter Tree Identification
Katharine Ordway Preserve
Sunday, December 4, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Leader: Fred Moore

Family Nature Walk, Devil's Den
Sunday, December 11, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Leaders: Paula and Bob Eppinger

Family Nature Walk, Devil's Den
Sunday, January 8, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Leaders: Jackie and Dick Troxell

Nature Photography with Alison Wachstein
Monday, January 9, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
First of a three-part series for adults, to take place in instructor's home studio. On January 15, participants will take photographs at Devil's Den. On January 30, participants will discuss their photographs taken at the Den. Space limited; call Devil's Den to register.

Adult Winter Walk
Katharine Ordway Preserve
Tuesday, January 10
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Leaders: May Callahan and Sue Roth

Devil's Den, Family Nature Walk
Sunday, February 5, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Leaders: Jonathan Brochstein and Irene Kitzman

Devil's Den, Adult Winter Walk
Monday, February 6, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Leaders: Doris Falk and Annette Sandstrom

Endangered Connecticut Slide Show Available

How does The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter go about its work of protecting vanishing species?

These and other questions are answered by the chapter's slide show, "Endangered Connecticut," which explains how we go about our work, while highlighting fascinating places, people, plants and animals across our remarkable state. The show consists of 80 slides — fewer if you have time limitations — and is given by a staff member or experienced volunteer.

Your organization can help! Our volunteers expect no compensation, but a gift toward our conservation work is welcome, and will help us continue our work. For details, please phone Dorothy Millen at the Connecticut Field Office, 344-0716.

The Nature Conservancy

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From The Land

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CHARTER Members Boost Chapter

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY Conservancy guests, volunteers, and staff, undaunted by squalls and dramatic lightning, boarded the *Silver Star* for a tour of the Tidelands of the Connecticut River on the evening of Friday, September 9 to celebrate the launch of the Connecticut Chapter's CHARTER OAK COUNCIL.

"There is virtually nothing that is accomplished without a need for some discretionary funds," said founding member Janet Jainschigg. "I think this giving club is a marvelous idea. I hope you will join me in support of the CHARTER OAK COUNCIL."

Mrs. Jainschigg, a volunteer fund-raiser for many organizations, is absolutely correct. No task, no function performed by Connecticut Chapter staff can be accomplished without operating support — unrestricted funds for chapter expenses. Each of the achievements outlined in the newsletter you now hold was accomplished thanks to unrestricted giving from our members.

"As a long-time volunteer for the Conservancy, I have had a chance to observe the remarkable degree of expertise and teamwork present among the staff of this organization," said H. William (Bill) Reed, a long-time chapter Acorn who knows first-hand the critical role operating funds play in advancing the Conservancy's

mission. "I'm delighted to be the first founding member of the CHARTER OAK COUNCIL. I hope many others will choose to help with this important new effort."

Personal invitations to events like the Connecticut River cruise, updates from Conservancy President John C. Sawhill and Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr., and invitations to national Nature Conservancy trips are among the benefits you'll receive with your membership. Please consider joining the CHARTER OAK COUNCIL with an unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or more.

Please call Marian Moore at 344-0716 if you are interested in more details.



▲ Charter Oak Council Charter Members Dana and Larry Linden (far left and far right) enjoy a cruise on the Connecticut River with staff members Marlee Mikovsky (middle left) and Carolie Evans.

The
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